January/February 1990 Volume 15, Number 1

News for You

A summary of recent news stories from the University of California, San Francisco

UCSF

$11 Million NIH Grant for Heart, Lung Research

UC San Francisco has received a NIH $11 million grant to start a one-of-a-kind research program that will bring the modern tools of genetics and molecular biology to bear on a neglected area of biology: the growth and development of the heart, blood vessels and lungs.

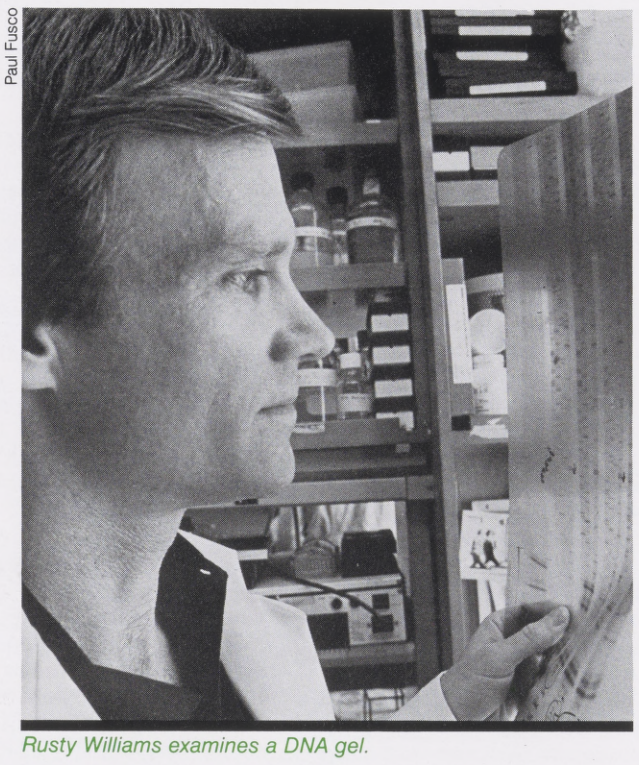
The seven-year, $10.8 million grant from the National Heart Lung & Blood Institute is designed to stimulate new research in this area, and to provide the basis for future attacks on diseases like atherosclerosis, lung disease and cancer.

According to program leader Lewis T. "Rusty" Williams, a senior investigator in the UCSF Cardiovascular Research Institute (CVRI) and Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the application of new genetic and molecular tools has transformed many fields of biology, leading to significant advances in understanding and treating cancer, disorders of the immune system, and blood and muscle diseases.

To date, however, the field of cardiovascular and pulmonary research has been dominated by physiologic studies of entire organs or tissues, while molecular and genetic studies have lagged behind.

Researchers in the CVRI, who have made outstanding contributions in this field, will join forces with some of the world's best-known molecular biologists at UCSF to remedy this situation, melding the two approaches into a powerful investigative tool.

Paul Fusco



Rusty Williams examines a DNA gel.

Third Year Kick-Off for Science Partnership

UC San Francisco scientists and health professionals and San Francisco middle and high school teachers came together in late November to kick off the third year of the Science Education Partnership (SEP), an innovative program intended to improve science education in the public schools.

The campus reception gave the teachers a chance to form one-on-one partnerships with UCSF professionals and thereby tap into the wealth of scientific knowledge at the University.

SEP aims to replace the often dry textbook science lessons with hands-on curriculum devised by teachers with the help of their UCSF partners. Through the fruits of SEP partnerships, students explore a broad range of topics, from recombinant DNA to the developmental stages of mice. The hope is that SEP will stimulate students to deepen their knowledge in science and perhaps pursue science-oriented careers.

The program also includes a student science contest, donations of surplus equipment to schools, tours of UCSF laboratories, and lectures by UCSF researchers. Approximately 250 science teachers from 35 middle and high schools in San Francisco participate in SEP, along with 120 University faculty, fellows and students, who volunteer their time. Last year, teachers and scientists formed 52 partnerships.

SEP was conceived by UCSF biochemist Bruce Alberts as a way to combat scientific illiteracy, a troublesome trend for America's economic future. Students in the U.S., for example, ranked last in biology in a recent study of 17 countries conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement.

SEP has expanded this year to include a health education component. As with the science education effort, teachers and UCSF personnel are forming partnerships to further health education through interesting curriculum.

Anyone wishing to become involved in SEP can contact academic coordinator David States, science coordinator Art Sussman or health coordinator JoAnne Miller at 476-0300.

Hot Peppers for Herpes

The burning ingredient in chili peppers may turn out to be an important tool in the study of herpes virus infections. Already it is helping uncover potential targets for drug therapy that someday could prevent recurrent outbreaks or even protect against infection.

UC San Francisco neuroimmunologists report this month that the chemical capsaicin can help protect mice from infection with the virus by interfering with the function of specific nerve fibers and neurotransmitters.

In addition, eyedrops containing the chemical can prevent flareups of latent herpes eye infections in mice for up to two months.

"In the future we may be able to administer compounds that act on these nerve fibers to block release and transport of the virus, and thus prevent flareup," says Donald C. Payan, who headed the study.

Payan, however, warns that people should not squeeze hot chili pepper juice in their eyes, since it is highly irritating and can damage optical nerves.

In Brief

First Pancreas Transplant

A 32-year-old Bay Area woman became UCSF's first pancreas transplant recipient last November as part of a combined pancreas kidney transplant procedure. The patient, a diabetic, had been taking self-administered insulin shots for 16 years and also suffered from kidney failure and eye disease—two common complications of diabetes. She had been undergoing dialysis for two months before the operation. She has needed neither dialysis nor insulin since the operation, reports Juliet Melzer, head of the new UCSF transplant program.

Melzer announced the initiation of the new program December 8 during a special symposium marking the 25th anniversary of the UCSF Kidney Transplant Service, which has performed close to 3,500 transplants and is the largest program of its kind in the world. The new pancreas program hopes to perform 20-25 combined pancreas-kidney transplants a year.

Cyclosporine Reduces Costs for Kidney Transplant Patients

An immunosuppresive drug that inhibits the body from rejecting transplant organs has cut by one-quarter the hospitalization costs of patients receiving cadaver kidneys, a UC San Francisco study has found.

Patients treated with cyclosporine spent an average of 11 fewer days in the hospital than patients who underwent transplant operations prior to 1983, when the drug was introduced, according to the study conducted by Jonathan Showstack, a researcher at the UCSF Institute for Health Policy Studies.

Brain Tumor Research Lab Receives $2.6 Million

A new laboratory at the Brain Tumor Research Center in the Department of Neurological Surgery has been established thanks to a $2.6 million gift from the Preuss Foundation.

Called the Preuss Laboratory for Brain Tumor Research, the new facility will be headed by Mark Israel, a pediatrician and molecular geneticist internationally renown for his research into childhood cancers.

$158 Billion Price Tag for Injuries

Injuries affect 57 million people annually throughout the U.S. and last year cost the country $180 billion, according to a joint study by researchers at UC San Francisco and Johns Hopkins University.

The study, the first to describe the impact of injury on the nation, found that 143,000 people died of injuries in 1985. For that year, injury was the leading cause of death in children and adults under age 45, and the fourth leading cause of death overall.

The study's authors are Dorothy P. Rice, a researcher in the UCSF School of Nursing's Institute for Health and Aging, and Johns Hopkins' Ellen J. MacKenzie.

Despite the high incidence and cost of injury, little is relatively spent on injury research, according to Rice and MacKenzie. The study examines a variety of injury prevention strategies and concludes that investments in prevention could save our economy billions of dollars each year.

More News for You
on the back page

What's happening

January/February
A bimonthly calen
events at UC San

Brown Bag Lectures

125th

All lectures are free and held on Wednesdays at noon in Rm. 300 Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus. For further information call 476-4394.

Jan. 3
Capital Markets for the 1990s.

Jan. 10
Dynamics of Influence: A New Model for Persuasion.

Jan. 17
Role of Estrogen in Women's Health.

Jan. 24
Valuing the Self: Understanding the Nature & Development of Self-Esteem.

Jan. 31
Reducing Stress Through Goal-Oriented Anger.

Feb. 7
Keeping Performers Healthy.

Feb. 14
Young, Black & Male in America—An Endangered Species.

Feb. 21
What's Happening to Mother Earth?

Feb. 28
The Medical-Economic Riddle of Our Time.

Special Events

Sun., Jan. 14
"A Fairy-Tale Odyssey." Young Performers Theater's touring production of 10 classic fairy tales with music, costumes, sound effects and audience participation. Suitable for children ages 5-12 and adults. A fundraiser for Playmates Cooperative Nursery School. Co-sponsored by UCSF Office of Public Service Programs. $2.50. Cole Hall. 1 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 30
"Fighting for Their Lives: Women & War in Central America." Discussion of issues surrounding rape & post-traumatic stress disorder in the context of political terrorism. Guest speakers: Barbara Zelwer, Felix Kury, Jeanette Panameno. Sponsored by Rape Prevention Education Program. HSW 302. Noon.

Blood Donation

Tues., Jan. 23
Campus Blood Drive. Blood may be given in Millberry Union main lounge, 500 Parnassus, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and School of Nursing Bldg. mezzanine level, enter through 521 Parnassus, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Campus Tours

All tours are free and take place at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 and Feb. 6, 13, 20 & 27. Meet in the lobby of Medical Sciences building, 513 Parnassus. For further information call 476-4394.

UCSF-Laurel Heights Events

All events held in the auditorium at 3333 California St. Free parking available.

Just About All Jazz: 125th
The 2nd & 3rd in a series of 6 concerts. $10 general, $9 UCSF faculty & staff, $8 seniors, students & Millberry Union members, $3 children under 14. Grandparents free when accompanied by grandchildren. 8 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 26:
Weslia Whitfield with Michael Greensill. Cabaret/jazz singer in a real cabaret setting with concert quality acoustics.

Fri., Feb. 9:
Horace Tapscott Trio. See Black Heritage Month.

Community Health Talks:
Free lectures sponsored by UCSF Office of Public Service Programs. 7-8:30 p.m. Call 476-3206.

Thurs., Jan. 18
Sex & Cervical Cancer: The Implications of Papilloma Virus.

Thurs., Feb. 8
Developing a Low Stress Work/Lifestyle.

Paths of Healing & Wholeness

Unless otherwise noted, all talks are free and held on Fridays at noon, and workshops on Mondays from 6-9 p.m. in Room 721, Nursing Bldg., enter through 521 Parnassus. Call Marie Lehrer at 476-3939.

Jan. 5
Beyond AIDS: A Journey into Healing.

Jan. 12
Healing the Father Wound.

Jan. 19
Guide for Self-Healing.

Jan. 26
Transformation Therapy: Healing the Inner Child Through Love.

Mon., Jan. 29
Workshop: Path to Self-Healing. 6-9 p.m.

Feb. 2
Communication: Finding Your Focus.

Mon., Feb. 5
Workshop: Communication: Translating Your Vision into Action. 6-9 p.m.

Feb. 9
Written Communication: Write with Ease.

Feb. 16
Nine Styles of Communication. Room 517, Nursing Bldg.

Feb. 23
Can You Talk Yourself into Happiness & Health?

Volunteer Orientation

Programs to acquaint new & prospective volunteers with opportunities available in the Medical Center at UCSF. Held in Rm. 191 Long Hospital, 505 Parnassus, on the Tuesdays listed below. For further information call 476-1196.

Jan. 9, 2-4 p.m.
Jan. 23 & Feb. 20, 6-8 p.m.
Feb. 6, 9-11 a.m.

Outdoors Unlimited

Outdoors Unlimited is a cooperative resource center for outdoor recreation and adventure, serving both the UCSF campus and the general public. It provides skills training, equipment rentals, trip planning information and a place to meet others with similar interests. To receive a quarterly listing of trips and clinics, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Outdoors Unlimited, Box 0234A, UCSF, San Francisco, CA, 94143. For more information call 476-2078.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Week

125th

UCSF commemorates the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Jan. 12-19.

Fri., Jan. 12
An Evening of Celebration. Champagne reception and two theater productions begin UCSF's celebration. A gospel singer rounds out the evening. $20 (advance), $25 (door). Lorraine Hansberry Theater, 620 Sutter. 5:30 p.m. Call 476-2571 or 474-8842 for further information.

Wed., Jan. 17
"Living the Dream" Ethnic Festival. Reflecting the ethnic & cultural diversity of the UCSF campus. Featuring the presentation of the First Annual UCSF Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. awards by Chancellor Krevans. Sponsored by UCSF Arts & Lectures. Saunders Court. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 18
Celebrating the Heroine & Hero Inside Each of Us. Melba Patillo Beals, one of the "Little Rock Nine," a group of black children who made history by attending an all-white high school in 1957, recounts that turbulent time. Co-sponsored by the Women's Resource Center. Millberry Conference Center, 500 Parnassus. Noon-1 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 19
Wrap-Up Reception. Willie Brown, Jr., Assembly Speaker & UC Regent, shares his observations of San Francisco and the Pacific Rim in the 1990s & UCSF's role in the future. Cole Hall. 11:30 a.m. Cake-cutting & reception conclude the week's activities. Millberry Union Conference Center. 12:45 p.m.

Black Heritage Month

UCSF celebrates its black heritage throughout the month of February with a series of speakers set tentatively for each Monday. A number of special & musical events are scheduled, including those below. Call 476-5761 for information.

Fri., Feb. 9:
Horace Tapscott Trio. A rare San Francisco appearance for this musical storyteller dedicated to the preservation of the musical heritage of Black Americans. Third in the *Just About All jazz* series. See UCSF-Laurel Heights Events.

Thurs., Feb. 15
Sick & Tired of Being Sick & Tired: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer. Erna Smith looks at the life of the Mississippi sharecropper whose political activism challenged and transformed the U.S. political convention system. Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center. Toland Hall. Noon.

AIDS Programs

Sponsored by UCSF AIDS Health Project. For more information call 476-6430.

Events:

Public forums on *Living with HIV.* Hartsook Rm., 1855 Folsom St. 7-9 p.m.

Wed., Jan 24
Clinical Trials: What, Who, Why & How.

Thurs., Feb 22
Conversations with People Living with HIV.

Services:

Individual Risk Assessments & Referrals.
By appointment. Free.

Support Groups.
Drop-in & eight-week facilitated groups for men & women with AIDS, ARC or HIV infection, in a risk group or otherwise affected.

Positives Being Positive.
Anonymous support groups in the community for people who have tested HIV positive but have not developed symptoms of AIDS or ARC.

Caregiver Training.
Caring & self-caring skills for professionals & volunteers.

Cole Hall Cinema

Films are shown on Thursdays and Fridays in Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. Children under 14 $2; UCSF students, seniors & Millberry Union members $2.50; general $3. Call 476-2571.

Jan. 4 at 5:45 & 8:15 p.m.
Jan. 5 at 6:30 & 9 p.m.
Indiana Jones & The Last Crusade.

Jan. 11 at 5:45 & 8 p.m.
Jan. 12 at 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.
Casualties of War.

Jan. 18 at 5:45 & 8:15 p.m.
Jan. 19 at 6:30 & 9 p.m.
Parenthood.

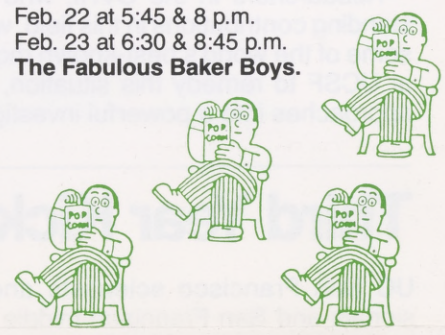
Jan. 25 at 5:45 & 8:45 p.m.
Jan. 26 at 6:30 & 9:30 p.m.
The Abyss.

Feb. 1 at 5:45 & 7:45 p.m.
Feb. 2 at 6:30 & 8:30 p.m.
A Dry White Season.

Feb. 8 at 5:45 & 7:45 p.m.
Feb. 9 at 6:30 & 8:30 p.m.
Immediate Family.

Feb. 15 at 5:45 & 8 p.m.
Feb. 16 at 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.
Sea of Love.

Feb. 22 at 5:45 & 8 p.m.
Feb. 23 at 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.
The Fabulous Baker Boys.



Senior Health Education Program

Free lectures by UCSF staff geared to senior citizens. Schedules are subject to change. Call 476-3206 to confirm and for further information.

Fri., Jan. 26
Arthritis. Rheumatologist Kenneth E. Sack. St. Francis Meal Service, 432 Mason. 10:30 a.m.

Thurs., Feb. 8
Tues., Feb. 13
An Introduction to CPR & Emergency Response. Emergency medical technician Karen Strain. St. Philip's Senior Club, 725 Diamond St. 11 a.m.

Fri., Feb. 9
Care of the Bones. Endocrinologist Gordon Strewler. St. Mark's Seniors, 1102 O'Farrell. 10:30 a.m.

Wed., Feb. 21
Respiratory Care. Respiratory Care Service education director Mike Mahlmeister. Bernal Heights Senior Center, 515 Cortland Ave. 12:40 p.m.

Women's Programs

Events & workshops sponsored by UCSF Women's Resource Center. For further information call 476-0400. To pre-register call 476-5836.

Workshops:

Sat., Jan. 27
Breaking Down the Barriers: Building Alliances. New ways of looking at oppression & behavior. Facilitated by Lillian Roybal Rose. Room 758, Medical Sciences, 513 Parnassus. 10 a.m-5 p.m. $20-$40.

Sat., Feb. 10
Embrace the Void Within & Be Filled. Help for people struggling with an eating addiction. Facilitated by Barbara Christwitz. Room 517, Nursing Bldg., enter through 521 Parnassus. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $20-$35.

Tues., Feb. 13
Expressing Your Sexual Self. Facilitated by Isadora Alman. Room 213, Clinical Sciences, 521 Parnassus. 5:30-9 p.m. $25.

Brea Scre

Women ca x-rays to s mobile var locations. 20 minute approval is 990-0459 3:30 p.m.

Jan. 2-5
Richmon Geary &

Jan. 8-12
Westlake Park Plaz

Jan. 16-19
UCSF-CE parking lo

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Com Talks

A series Thursday Sciences Free park further in

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CPR

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CPR Roa by volunt UCSF Ce & Training at 476-58

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The new offering r winter. Re gins Tues Union, 50 Jan. 13. F brochure

University News and 513 Parna San Fran

Breast Cancer Screening

Women can have low-cost mammograms—x-rays to screen for breast cancer—from a mobile van that travels to convenient Bay Area locations. The procedure takes approximately 20 minutes and costs $50. Your physician's approval is required. For appointments call 990-0459 or 476-2193 between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Jan. 2-5
Richmond district. On 7th Ave. between Geary & Clement.

Jan. 8-12
Westlake Shopping Center. Daly City on Park Plaza Dr. near Safeway.

Jan. 16-19
UCSF-CED Campus. 1855 Folsom St. in parking lot off 15th St. (Jan. 15 is a holiday.)

Jan. 22-26
Bechtel Corp. Beale St. off Market.

Jan. 29-Feb. 2
Marina Green. Parking lot near Fort Mason.

Feb. 5-9
UCSF-Laurel Heights. 3333 California St. in parking lot on left.

Feb. 12-16
Sunset district. Irving St. between 25th & 26th Aves.

Feb. 20-23
Embarcadero. On Drumm St. between Sacramento & Clay. (Feb. 19 is a holiday.)

Feb. 26-March 2
Marina Green. Parking lot near Fort Mason.

Community Health Talks

A series of free lecture/discussions held on Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. in Room 302 Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus. Free parking available. Call 476-3206 for further information.

Jan. 25
Altitude Sickness.

Feb. 15
Understanding the Human Brain.

CPR Training

125th

"Save A Heart" Program. CPR classes sponsored by UCSF CPR Center. Rm. 229, Nursing Bldg., enter through 521 Parnassus. Sat., Jan. 6 & 20, Feb. 3; Thurs., Jan. 11. 9 a.m.-noon. $20. For information & registration, call 476-1817.

CPR Road Show. Traveling CPR instruction by volunteer instructors sponsored by the UCSF Center for Pre-Hospital Research & Training. For more information call Denise at 476-5802.

Recreation & Fitness

The new Millberry Union Fitness Center is offering many new programs and classes this winter. Registration for the winter quarter begins Tues., Jan. 9, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., at Millberry Union, 500 Parnassus. Classes begin Sat., Jan. 13. For further information and a free brochure call 476-1115.

UCSF

University of California, San Francisco
News and Public Information Services
513 Parnassus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

Her blood pressure was double the norm for infants and no one was sure why.

UCSF nurses care for the seriously ill.

So when four-month-old Annie Pankow of Oakland arrived at Moffitt/Long Hospital's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) in the predawn hours of February 1988, they immediately put their skills to use.

Annie's blood pressure measured 140 over 90—within acceptable limits for adults—but nearly double what is normal for infants. PICU nurse Kathleen Justice, worried about the blood pressure readings, consulted with the unit's physicians, who inserted a line through Annie's femoral artery to ensure their accuracy. They then lowered her pressure with intravenous drugs and ordered a battery of tests.

To combat Annie's breathing problems, which began soon after her parents rushed her to Kaiser earlier in the day, the PICU staff also put her on a ventilator.

Annies' parents were terrified. They already had lost a daughter to congenital heart disease two years before. And only a month earlier, Annie had been placed in a full-body cast because her hips were not fully formed. More bad news was on the way.

X-rays found that Annie's kidneys were malfunctioning—a possible cause of the hypertension since her blood was not being adequately cleaned. The results of a head sonogram were more reassuring. Annie had not suffered a catastrophic stroke—and resulting brain damage—as her doctors had feared.

Yet the root cause of her problems remained unknown to the health care team that eventually included a trio of nurses and several medical specialists. "There were many tense moments when we didn't have explanations for Annie's mother, nor for ourselves," says PICU nurse Suellen Mortland. "We couldn't anticipate what would happen next. That's what made Annie's case unusual."

As with all critically-ill patients in the 16-bed unit—one of 10 intensive and special care units in Moffitt/Long—the nurses constantly monitored Annie for any changes in her blood oxygen or carbon dioxide levels. They also kept a close eye on the vital signs monitor for heart and respiratory rates.

Two weeks after she had arrived, Annie went home, her blood pressure controlled by medication.

The next four months passed quietly. But then, after what seemed like another bout of the flu, her heart rate and blood pressure began to fluctuate wildly. Her kidneys started to malfunction again. And there was a new problem—heart arrhythmia.

Back at the PICU, she underwent more tests. One examined hormones that might affect her blood pressure, another checked for a brain tumor. A heart catheterization measured pressure in the heart chambers as well as valve and ventricular function.

The latter revealed that one of Annie's heart nodes, which produce electrical impulses, was misfiring, causing a low heart rate.

This time, Annie stayed in the PICU for a month. She went home with high, but stabilized, blood pressure (90 over 60). She also went home with a heart pacemaker, a rarity for children not quite yet one-year-old.

While still something of a medical enigma—the exact cause of her problems remains a mystery—Annie now is doing much better. Medication controls her blood pressure, the pacemaker takes over when her heart slows down, her kidneys are working properly, and her breathing is normal. Her left hip never corrected itself and she wears a brace. But thanks in great part to the care she received at the PICU, two-year-old Annie is now a cheerful member of the Pankow family—and a lively playmate for her two older brothers.

—Marshall Krantz

David Powers

January/February 1990

To Our Neighbors

One-of-a-kind heart, lung and blood research program

Science Partnership with City schools heads into its third year

Study finds unnecessary hospitalization of nursing home patients

UCSF
University of California, San Francisco
513 Parnassus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

More News for You

UCSF Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplants Get Prudential OK

The UC San Francisco Medical Center is one of seven centers nationwide named to perform pediatric, allogeneic bone marrow transplants under the Prudential Insurance Company's "Institutes of Quality" program.

The program, which began in July 1988, is designed to channel patients enrolled in Prudential health plans to medical centers with superior track records in performing high-tech medical treatments.

The UCSF Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Program began performing allogeneic transplants in 1982. An allogeneic transplant is one in which HLA-antigen proteins on the white blood cells of the donor closely match those of the recipient.

UCSF's transplant program, directed by Morton J. Cowan, initially served patients with severe congenital immunodeficiency disease. But in July 1985, when a UCSF unit dedicated to bone marrow transplants opened, allogeneic transplant services were expanded to treat children with various types of cancer, including leukemia, lymphoma and neuroblastoma.

More than 100 children ranging in age from a few weeks to 18 years have received transplants through the Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Program, and the patient population has expanded to include children with certain inherited metabolic diseases.

The pediatric bone marrow transplant team has pioneered methods to successfully treat bone marrow from parents whose cells partially match their children's—making transplants possible that were previously considered too dangerous to try.

In addition to bone marrow transplants, the UCSF Medical Center also participates in Prudential's Institutes of Quality program as a kidney transplant center.

For further information on pediatric bone marrow transplants call 476-2188.

Half of Nursing Home Patients Hospitalized Needlessly

Nearly 50 percent of the patients admitted to hospitals from nursing homes are hospitalized needlessly, a UC San Francisco study has concluded.

The unnecessary hospitalization of an estimated 216,000 nursing home patients nationwide costs $942 million annually, according to UCSF researchers Jeanie Kayser-Jones, Carolyn Wiener and Joseph Barbaccia.

The study, conducted in three West Coast nursing homes, was limited to 215 patients, most of whom were 60 years or older.

Nursing home patients were sent to acute care hospitals not for clinical reasons, according to the researchers, but rather for insufficient support services in the nursing homes, insufficient professional nursing staff, poor nurse-physician communication and family pressure for transfer.

Increasing professional nursing staff in nursing homes could stem the flow of patients to hospitals, say the researchers. They estimate there are 1.5 licensed nursing staff per 100 patients in nursing homes, compared to one registered nurse for 4.5 patients in acute care hospitals. The average nursing home has about 41 full-time employees, only three of whom are RNs, according to the study.

Riskiest Gallstones

Patients with bacteria-filled gallstones are much more likely to suffer infection, or require emergency or extensive surgery than patients with microbe-free gallstones, a UCSF study at the Veterans Administration Medical Center has found.

Studies led by surgeon Lawrence Way suggest that bacteria causes the more troublesome pigment gallstones, as opposed to cholesterol gallstones, the formation of which are influenced by diet and perhaps other cultural factors.

The finding may help alert doctors to cases requiring antibiotics and could lead to ways to keep bacteria-filled stones from forming. The researchers plan further study to characterize the bacteria and discover how microbes invade bile ducts.

Men Needed for Vitamin A Study

Men between 45 and 69 years old who worked at least five years prior to 1974 in trades at risk for asbestos exposure and who also smoked during some of that time are needed for a study to assess the potential of vitamin A in reducing cancer.

Indentified as high-risk trades are the following: asbestos workers, plumbers and pipe fitters, sheet metal workers, plaster board workers, shipyard electricians, ship scalers, ship fitters, and shipyard boilermakers.

For further information contact the Asbestos Cancer Prevention Study at SFGH, 821-5961.